

Application No. 10/074,715 - - - - - 2

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (currently amended). An aqueous biological fluid preserving composition suitable for ~~preservation of a biological fluid specimen~~ lysing and preserving a blood sample for hormone analysis, the composition consisting essentially of:

- a) about 0.05 to about 0.5 weight percent of a chelating agent;
- b) about 5 to about 25 weight percent of a cell lysing agent;
- c) up to about 0.1 weight percent of a preservative; and
- d) up to about 50 weight percent of an antifreeze agent; and
- ~~[[d)]]~~ e) the remainder being water;

the composition being capable of preserving thyroid stimulating hormone present in the blood sample for at least about three weeks at an ambient temperature of about 22 °C.

Claim 13 (original). The composition of claim 12 wherein the chelating agent is a calcium chelating agent.

Claim 14 (currently amended). The composition of claim 12 wherein the chelating agent is ~~EDTA~~ ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) or a salt thereof.

Claim 15 (original). The composition of claim 12 wherein the cell lysing agent is a C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>4</sub> alcohol.

Claim 16 (original). The composition of claim 15 wherein the cell lysing agent is ethanol.

Claim 17 (original). The composition of claim 12 wherein the preservative is present in an amount in the range of about 0.01 to about 0.03 weight percent.

Claim 18 (original). The composition of claim 17 wherein the preservative is sodium azide.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (currently amended). The composition of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 12 wherein the antifreeze agent is an organic polyol.

Application No. 10/074,715 - - - - 3

Claim 21 (original).      The composition of claim 20 wherein the organic polyol is a C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>10</sub> polyol.

Claim 22 (currently amended).      The composition of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 12 wherein the antifreeze agent is ethylene glycol.

Claims 23-31 (cancelled).

Claim 32 (original).      An article of manufacture comprising an aqueous biological fluid preserving composition of claim 12 in packaged form.

Claims 33-34 (cancelled).